

STAT,

UPI-63

(NOMINATIONS)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE GAVE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TODAY TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOMINATION OF RETIRED VICE ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN TO HEAD THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

ALSO APPROVED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE WAS THE PRESIDENT'S SELECTION OF CAREER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER RICHARD M. HELMS, AS CIA'S SECOND IN COMMAND. ACTION ON THE NOMINATIONS WAS ANNOUNCED BY ACTING CHAIRMAN JOHN C. STENNIS AFTER A SHORT HEARING.

4/22--GE1148A

UPI-74

ADD 1 NOMINATIONS, WASHINGTON (UPI-63)

RABORN, AN AVIATOR EARLY IN HIS SERVICE CAREER, WAS THE NAVY'S DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE MID-1950S. HE IS CREDITED WITH A MAJOR ROLE IN SPEEDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE NAVY'S POLARIS WEAPONS SYSTEM. HE HAS BEEN A VICE PRESIDENT OF AEROJET GENERAL CORP., SINCE HIS RETIREMENT IN SEPTEMBER, 1963.

HELMS, A CORRESPONDENT FOR UNITED PRESS IN GERMANY BEFORE WORLD WAR II., BEGAN HIS INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WITH THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES IN 1943. HE HAS WORKED FOR CIA SINCE THE AGENCY WAS FOUNDED IN 1947 -- SINCE 1962 AS ITS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS.

BOTH APPOINTEES TESTIFIED BRIEFLY AT AN OPEN HEARING AND AT A SHORT SESSION BEHIND CLOSED-DOORS. BOTH SAID THEY WOULD SELL STOCK HOLDINGS IF THE COMMITTEE DESIRED IT, TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

NEITHER OF THE NOMINEES WAS QUESTIONED IN PUBLIC ABOUT POLICIES OF THE ALWAYS CONTROVERSIAL CIA. SEN. JACK MILLER, R-IOWA, ASKED RABORN FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF CIA OFFICIALS TO AN AMBASSADOR AT OVERSEAS POSTS, BUT HE SAID HE WOULD "PASS" THE QUESTION AFTER STENNIS ENGAGED IN A SHORT, WHISPERED CONVERSATION AT THE COMMITTEE TABLE.

4/22--JD1223PES

Continued

UPI-82

ADD 3 NOMINATIONS, WASHINGTON

AFTER THE MEETING STENNIS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT RABORN'S STATUS, AS THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, IS "ALL CLARIFIED AND IN THE CLEAR" ALTHOUGH THE MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING.

STENNIS SAID THE ADMIRAL'S ANSWERS TO COMMITTEE QUESTIONS IN THE CLOSED-DOOR PORTION OF THE HEARING WERE "COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY." MILLER SAID HE WAS SATISFIED AND EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN CIA OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADORS IN SUCH AREAS AS VIET NAM.

UPI-79

ADD 2 NOMINATIONS, WASHINGTON

THE SENATE QUICKLY APPROVED THE RABORN NOMINATION.

THE ROUTINE SENATE ACTION CAME WITHOUT DISSENT, ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE SELECTION.

RABORN PROMISED THE COMMITTEE TO KEEP THE SPECIAL CIA SUBCOMMITTEES "FULLY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED" ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION, EVEN SUCH MATTERS AS WOULD NOT NORMALLY COME TO THEIR ATTENTION WHICH HE FELT THEY SHOULD KNOW.

NOT MENTIONED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS RABORN'S DUAL ROLE AS HEAD OF CIA AND AS HEAD OF THE U. S. INTELLIGENCE BOARD WHICH EVALUATES ALL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AS WELL AS CIA. IN NOMINATING JOHN A. MCCONE, WHO IS BOWING OUT AS CIA DIRECTOR, THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WROTE MCCONE NOTING THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARGUING MCCONE, AS HIS TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, TO STRESS THE OVERALL JOB AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATION'S ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE EFFECT.

ACTING CHAIRMAN STENNIS LED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN PRAISING BOTH NOMINEES AND STRESSING THE "EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT" JOBS TO WHICH THEY WERE NOMINATED. SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., LONG-TIME CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE'S WEAPONS SUBCOMMITTEE, WARMLY PRAISED RABORN'S SERVICES IN THE POLARIS PROGRAM.

SEN. JOHN G. TOWER, R-TEX., PRAISED RABORN AS A FELLOW TEXAN AND MENTIONED, ESPECIALLY, THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM "PROGRESS EVALUATION REPORTING TECHNIQUE" (PERT) WHICH WAS DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE POLARIS DEVELOPMENT.

RABORN DID NOT ELABORATE IN STATING THAT HE WOULD SELL SECURITIES FROM THE LIST WHICH HE HAD SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS IF THEY DESIRED. HELMS MENTIONED THAT HE HELD 100 SHARES OF STOCK IN GENERAL ELECTRIC AND 44 IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES. HE SAID BOTH WERE CIA CONTRACTORS, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD DISPOSE OF THOSE HOLDINGS IF DESIRED.

4/22--JD1240PES